



# The Pileup

## Newsletter of the CDXA

### CDXA Takes 1<sup>st</sup> Place in 2007 Field Day

Dick Williams, W3OA

CDXA, operating W4DXA, won Category 4E nationwide by a wide margin in this year's Field Day event. W4DXA scored 12,702 points. The second place entry scored 5,652 points. You can read how we did this on page 5 of the July 2007 Pileup (<http://www.cdxa.org/pileup/Archives/cdxa0607.pdf>).

There are a lot of ways to cut Field Day scores. Here are some:

W4DXA was 1<sup>st</sup> among the 5 entries in Category 4E.

In 2006 we were in Category 2E and place 2<sup>nd</sup>.

W4DXA was 16<sup>th</sup> among all 2,334 entries in all categories.

We were 88<sup>th</sup> in 2006.

W4DXA was 1<sup>st</sup> among all 59 entries in the North Carolina Section.

We were 2<sup>nd</sup> in 2006.

W4DXA was 2<sup>nd</sup> among all 175 entries in the Roanoke Division.

W3AO beat us here. They were Category 7A. We were 11<sup>th</sup> in 2006.

W4DXA was 2<sup>nd</sup> among all 250 entries in E categories. K5TA beat us here. They were Category 2E, all CW, and had a power multiplier of 5 because they were QRP. Our power multiplier was 2. We were 6<sup>th</sup> in 2006.

W4DXA was 8<sup>th</sup> among all 2,164 entries with 4 or fewer stations.

In 2006 we were 30<sup>th</sup> among all entrants with 2 or fewer stations.

So any way you look at it, it was a great effort and substantially better than last year. We had some outstanding operators and moving our QTH to AA4S was a big improvement. And Ron, AA4S, has said he would like to have us back next year.

—Dick, W3OA

### CDXA PacketCluster & Other Communication Systems

W4DXA (11 mi. NE of Mooresville)	144.93 MHz (1200 bits/second)	441.00 MHz (9600 bits/second)
K4MD Charlotte, NC	144.91 MHz (1200 bits/second)	Not Available on 9600 bits/second
NG4DX (Digi near Galax, VA)	144.95 MHz (1200 bits/second) Connect to NG4DX, then type "C W4DXA"	
K4MD (AR Cluster via Telnet)	k4md.no-ip.com	
CDXA Repeater 147.18 MHz (+600 )	W4DXA, Near Fort Mill, SC	
Echolink Interconnect to CDXA Rptr.	Login to K4DXA -R	
World Wide Web Homepage	www.cdxa.org	
Wednesday Luncheon (11:30 AM)	Murphy's Food and Spirits, 131 E. Woodlawn Road, Charlotte, NC	

## BPL Update

*(As reported a while back in these pages, the ARRL reluctantly decided to bring the issue of the FCC's handling of BPL regulations to the judicial branch of the U.S. Government. The early rounds of that effort were reported in Volume 26, No. 43 of THE ARRL LETTER. Because of its importance to Amateur Radio, the full text of the ARRL story is reproduced here. —The Editor)*

### ARRL FACES FCC IN FEDERAL COURT OVER BPL ISSUES

On Tuesday, October 23, the ARRL faced the Federal Communications Commission in the US Court of Appeals over the continuing debate concerning harmful interference to licensed radio services from unlicensed Broadband over Power Line (BPL) systems. BPL is the delivery of broadband Internet communications using unshielded electrical wiring to conduct high-speed digital signals to homes and businesses. BPL systems are designed to conduct RF energy through unshielded, medium voltage power lines, using some or all of the HF spectrum between 1.7-80 MHz. At those frequencies on unshielded overhead power lines, the electrical wiring not only conducts the signals, it radiates them very efficiently for very substantial distances from the power lines.

In October 2006, the League petitioned the United States Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit to review the FCC's October 2004 Report and Order (R&O) in ET Docket 04-37 and 2006 Memorandum Opinion and Order which generally denied all of the 17 petitions for reconsideration. In its brief initially filed May 17, the

ARRL contends, among other things, that the FCC's adoption of rules to govern unlicensed BPL systems fundamentally alter the longstanding rights of radio licensees, including Amateur Radio operators. Specifically, the FCC order, while adopting rules that it claimed would minimize instances of harmful interference to licensed services, eliminated a fundamental requirement for unlicensed devices, and held for the first time that BPL systems need not shut down in the case of unresolved instances of harmful interference to "mobile" stations.

The ARRL argues that the FCC's BPL rules violate Section 301 of the Communications Act, which requires that operators of devices that emit radio frequency energy which have a substantial interference potential cannot operate without an FCC license. "For years, the FCC has consistently read Section 301 to apply to unintentional radiators, such as BPL devices, and has expressly embodied that interpretation in its rules," the League's brief recounts. The brief notes that extensive studies done by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration conclude persuasively that interference from BPL to mobile stations can be expected at distances up to almost a football field, and to fixed stations at distances up to five football fields.

The Commission then compounded its error by asserting that BPL devices do not fall within Section 301 at all, the League said. "This hail-Mary attempt at justification is another unexplained departure from prior policy that independently requires invalidation of the orders," the ARRL remarked in its brief.

The ARRL contends that the FCC orders under review "jeopardize the license rights of ARRL's members and other license holders by authorizing providers of a new device—Access Broadband over Power Lines, or 'BPL'—to send radio signals across the electric grid in the frequencies the license holders occupy, but without having to obtain an FCC license."

Each side had 20 minutes to present their case, with the League going first. Attorney Jonathan Frankel, of the Wilmer, Hale Law Firm, argued the case for ARRL before the three judge panel; Attorney C. Grey Pash, of the FCC General Counsel's office, argued for the FCC. According to ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, who attended the Court session, Frankel's argument centered on the removal of interference protection for licensed mobile stations, and the Commission's rules for measuring interference. "Frankel received multiple,

*(Continued on page 3)*

### The Pileup

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Published monthly 10 times per year, excluding the months of June and December.

The purpose of the association is to secure for the members the pleasures and benefits of the association of persons having a common interest in Amateur Radio.

Members of the CDXA shall adhere to "The Amateur's Code" as published from time to time in *The ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs*, and shall consist of those valid licensed amateur operators having an interest in promoting amateur radio. Long distance communications (DX) is of special interest to members of the association, but said interest is not a requirement of membership.

Dues are \$30 per year for those using the PacketCluster maintained by the Association, \$15 otherwise, payable each December. Dues are payable by check to the Secretary/Treasurer:

Cliff Wagoner, W3ZL  
P. O. Box 577  
Davidson, NC 28036

Address, telephone, and email address changes should be directed to the Secretary/Treasurer at the above address or via email at: cliffw@adelphia.net.

*(Continued from page 2)*

direct questions from each of the judges concerning the topics in the briefs, and responded to each very well," Harrison said.

"Judges Tatel, Rogers and Kavanaugh interrupted both sides repeatedly with intelligent, challenging questions," ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, said. "For example," Sumner continued, "while quizzing Frankel, the judges sounded skeptical that interference to mobile stations couldn't simply be regarded as 'not harmful' because it then, when quizzing the FCC's attorney, Judge Tatel said in response to the statement that 'mobile stations could simply in Manassas, Virginia for example, you can only get away from the interference by leaving Manassas.' It wasn't, he went on to say, like a garage door opener."

For the first time in decades, the FCC decided against requiring that operations found to cause "harmful interference" be shut down immediately—a stance that ignores the "right of the license holder to be free from interference," Frankel said in court. The FCC has also withheld portions of studies that would "potentially" show BPL does cause harmful interference to other devices—and ignored reports of tests the ARRL argues offer "substantial" evidence of interference problems, he continued. "We're talking about devices that radiate for football fields in length and all along power lines," Frankel said of the BPL gadgets. "When you drive down the street, [an Amateur Radio operator's] service is interrupted constantly."

"All three judges were clearly very familiar with the written record. They spent a lot of time on the issue of what information the FCC had withheld from public view (redacted)," Sumner said. "In the course of the argument, the FCC's attorney had to acknowledge that the Commission's explanations in the BPL proceeding were deficient in a number of respects, although it wasn't clear that administrative agencies are held to a very high standard in that regard."

Harrison said that Pash, the FCC's attorney, began his defense of the FCC orders and was almost "immediately interrogated" by the judges on the Commission's premise that "a mobile station in a licensed service should not be afforded complete protection from harmful interference just because it can just move away from the interference."

Pash also came under what Harrison called "considerable direct questioning" concerning the redacted material from the FCC's response to the ARRL's

Freedom of Information request. ARRL had asked the FCC to produce all of what FCC described as "extensive" studies allegedly justifying its BPL order, on which the FCC relied in adopting the BPL rules. The FCC had deleted what appeared to be any material in that one single study that indicated that interference from BPL systems was likely. One page that was completely redacted was a PowerPoint slide titled "New Information Arguing for Caution on HF BPL." The FCC claimed that was not factual information, but just staff advice. Pash "attempted to present a position that the material pertained to 'staff opinion' that was determined to not be a basis for the FCC's decision," Harrison said. According to Pash, the redacted sections referenced earlier sections of the report, and were not "a bunch of new information," Harrison added.

Pash defended the Commission's approach. He said the FCC didn't require the so-called "cease-operations" rule because it didn't find ample evidence that BPL posed any real potential for "harmful" interference. He said the studies the FCC relied upon, including one by the US National Telecommunications and Information Administration, found that so long as the FCC restricts the strength of the signals emitted by BPL devices—as it did through its rules—others sharing that spectrum "won't notice a difference" in the quality of their services.

Attorney Frankel reserved seven of his allotted 20 minutes for rebuttal of the FCC's arguments. He reiterated the League's position concerning mobile operations and also emphasized that "unless we have an opportunity to review the redacted material, no determination can be made as to its role in the FCC's rulemaking decision," Harrison said.

Both Sumner and Harrison said they were "quite impressed" with the knowledge that the judges had concerning the case and with the questions that they asked. Harrison said it could be "three months or more" before the Court announces its decision. - Some information for this article came from cnet.com.



## Welcome New Members!

October was another good month for amateur radio operators to find the Carolina DX Association. We are pleased to report that six (6) folks joined CDXA since the last newsletter was published.

In alphabetical order, **John Carson (KD5SRW)** of Norman, Oklahoma is now on the roster. Read below to learn how a “Sooner” comes to join us. Second in the alphabetic lineup is **Paul Deyo (N1PD)** of Catawba, NC with a nice, personalized callsign. Coming along third in the alphabetic list is **George Hall (W4BUW)** of Taylors, SC. **Larry Moss (W4LM)** of Penrose, NC joins us also with a nice “matching” 1x2 callsign to fill out the middle of the alphabet along with **Peter Manfre (WA2ODO)** of Indian Land, SC. Pete stopped in to lunch about two weeks ago, met a number of fellow CDXAers and within a day or two, Secretary Wagoner advised the officers that we had a new member. Finally, moving down the alphabet we work our way to **Chris Ponak (AI4YR)**, AD4IE’s XYL, who attended enough luncheons and CDXA social activities to identify herself as a DXer!

The members of CDXA are very pleased that all six of you have sought to join us in enjoying the pursuit of our favorite hobby. Welcome to CDXA!

### How Does a “Sooner” Connect with CDXA?

*(Shortly after Cliff Wagoner advises me of a new member signing on to CDXA, I usually drop the new member a note telling them they’ll be getting the Pileup via email and offering a welcome to them on behalf of CDXA. My natural curiosity caused me to ask John Carson how a person in Norman, Oklahoma finds the CDXA. Below is John’s response.—The Editor)*

Hi John,

Thanks for the welcome. I am sure I will greatly enjoy the Carolina DX Association. I was very impressed with the website and believe deeply in supporting that which I use.

As to why, well, I grew up in both Durham, NC and Charleston (Sullivan’s Island, SC) so Carolina IS my home at heart. My family has been in the Carolinas since the 1700’s so there’s lots of state history—much too much to detail here.

Anyway, I went to prep school near Lenoir, and went to my first two years of college at Wingate. I also did voice work and technical monitoring for TWR (Trans

World Radio, Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles). TWR, of course, is based in Cary. All my siblings and my Mom live in NC. So, you see the connection. . . .

I work in broadcasting as a producer for 1520AM KOKC, Oklahoma City. (used to be KOMA before our owner, Renda Broadcasting changed the historic call, to better track listenership trends...Aribtron ratings) I do greatly enjoy the broadcast side of radio. . . the Amateur side on the other hand is just pure fun for me and just as addictive as my work in broadcast radio.

Seems like the more I get into (grow into . . .) the hobby, the more fulfilling it seems to be. I enjoy Amateur Radio as it always seems I am running into those in this hobby who thankfully know a lot more than I do about any given topic, and they are usually more than willing to share their knowledge. I wish it was as easy in business or in everyday life. Yes, many in life do share their knowledge with others (but many don’t to their detriment.) Just seems to me that it is thankfully more a characteristic of those in Amateur Radio to share knowledge. It may be just my take on things, but I sure feel that it’s true.

. . . . .

I am delighted to have found the Carolina DX Association and happy to now be a part of it.

Hope to talk with you soon. —73 de KD5SRW / John

### Gee. . . I didn’t know that!

If you check in the fine print of the CQWW awards list, you’ll find that CDXA is the sponsor of a plaque for one of the categories in this major contest. Our President, Ted Goldthorpe, recently received this note of thanks from the winners of the plaque we sponsor:

Hi Ted -

About two weeks ago a box arrived here from CQ Magazine and inside was the plaque for our top USA M/S SSB score for 2006 (5.8 million points). We had a blast last year.

Please convey my thanks, and the thanks from the other two operators, to the members of the Carolina DX Association for sponsoring the plaque. It is appreciated very much!!

73,

Tom/K1KI (plus Rich/K1CC and Joe/KM1P)

## Top of the Honor Roll—Take 2

We've heard from a few of our members who deserve to be listed on the Top of the DXCC Honor Roll listing. If you recall from last month, we tried to recognize those who were #1, even if they had not yet submitted their QSLs or received confirmation of that status. And, well, we missed a few—mostly because the “last one” they needed was not necessarily BS7H.

So, please welcome to the ranks (or soon to be) of #1 on the DXCC Honor Roll:

Phil Florig	W9IXX
Joe Simpkins	K4MD
Larry Sossoman	K4CEB

By my count, that puts CDXA at 22 members who have them all, and that is quite a feat!

## Changes in the Wind. . . .

If you're not reading the roster every week, you might not have noticed that Jim Morris (ex-KD4OM) now has a nice new 1x2 callsign, KQ4O.

Earlier callsign changes that may have happened with little notice are that Doug Allen became K4LY (ex-W0AH) and Richard Dodd became K4KRW (ex-KG4PBG). They'd better get used to using their new callsigns real quick—especially for contests!

## Don't Wait to Pay your Dues, Please

Imagine being the treasurer of CDXA and having dues, which are payable by January 1 each year, coming in over a period of 4 to 5 months! That means twice as many trips to the bank to deposit the funds compared to having all dues come in during November and December. Please send your dues in to Cliff Wagoner as soon as possible. Cliff's address can be found in the publication notice on Page 2 and on the back cover of every issue of the *PILEUP*.

If you use the association's AR-Cluster, dues are \$30 per annum, otherwise they are \$15 per annum, payable by January 1 each year for the ensuing year. If you'd like to throw in a little extra money for supporting DXpeditions, you'll not find Cliff or any of the officers complaining. Please help Cliff out and write your check

to CDXA **today.**



## CDXA Holiday Party/Annual Meeting

CDXA will hold its Holiday Party/Annual Meeting on Thursday, December 13, 2007 at the Shanghai Restaurant. We'll have elections of officers, CWAC awards and door prizes to provide a little of something for everyone.

What: Holiday Party/Annual Meeting

When: Thursday, December 13, 2007

Social Hour: 6:30 PM

Dinner Time: 7:15 PM

Where: Shanghai Restaurant

8418 Park Road

(Quail Corners Shopping Center)

Charlotte, NC (704-556-1688)

Cost: \$18.95 per person, Choice of Sesame Chicken, Shrimp, Beef, Pork, or “meat lovers” entree. Steamed or fried rice with entree. Soup or spring roll appetizer, coffee, tea, or soft drink, tax, tip included.

Libation: “Cash”only bar—for beer and wine. No credit cards for the bar, bring some “green” with you!

RSVP to Thomas Wright (N4HN@arrl.net)





## CDXA Barbeque-2007

The weatherman returned to good form in 2007 for the CDXA Annual Barbeque. After a cold, wet year last year in which we were sheltered in K4BVQ's home, this year we had a pleasant afternoon start to the evening with some warm sunshine. It was cooler as the sun went down, but not cool enough to dampen the spirits of those in attendance. With 50+ souls in attendance, the event was lots of fun. We see more and more XYLs in attendance each year, and they seem to enjoy renewing acquaintances as familiar faces return each year.

Here's a little "photo essay" of the event!



Ida Williams, Sue Sturpe, Margaret Blackwell, and Priscilla Jennings find comfort in the warm afternoon sun and a small glass of wine!



N4ZC, W3OA, W3GQ, N4HN, W3ZL, and AF1E turn their attention away from N4PQX's Force 12 C-31-XR atop his 90 foot tower for a moment to acknowledge the camera.

Our host and hostess for the Barbeque this year were Bob and Wanda Burton. Bob's radio shack was open for inspection, and many stopped in to see Bob's hardware array. Thank you, Bob and Wanda, for your hospitality!

Ric Porter (AA4SC) put on his chef's hat again and catered the affair. We'll have to give Ric a break one of these years and let him come merely as a guest so he can enjoy the event. As usual, the BBQ was very good.

Desserts were provided pot luck style, so there were plenty of items to satisfy every "sweet tooth" in the assemblage.



Our "Prez", Ted (W4VHF) checks with Ric Porter (AA4SC) that all the food is ready before gathering for our pre-dinner blessing of the event.



We did mention desserts, didn't we?

## Annual Meeting to Choose New Officers

The CDXA By-laws call for election of officers at an annual meeting held late in the year. So as to ensure all members have a say in the operation of the Association, below is a proxy form to permit absentee voting for officers. Anyone wishing to run for office or to nominate someone for an office was directed to contact Wilson Caselli, K1MIJ, to have that name put on the ballot.

All current officers but our current VP, Thomas Wright, have agreed to stand for election in 2008. We still need a candidate for Vice President. If you would like to run for the office, please let Wilson know immediately. If you would like to nominate someone, please make sure that person is willing to serve, if elected. . You may cast a write-in vote for any office, as long as the write-in candidate has agreed to serve, if elected.

## CWAC Reaches Halfway Point

We're off to a great start in this year's CQWW contest. As of this writing we have 19 Million points versus 17 million last year. Let's all get out for CQWW CW to eclipse our 12<sup>th</sup> place U.S. finish of last year.

Scores are posted on the CDXA website as received. Todd Brady (W4WTB) scored 3.4 Million points as a single operator as a member of the CDXA 5 man team. Check out Todd's website at:

<http://w4wtb1.googlepages.com/home> for a few tips and techniques. Todd was joined by AA4S, KZ2I, N4PQX and W3OA to produce an aggregate claimed score of 8,112,580 for our 5-man team entry. A different 5-man team will represent CDXA for the CW contest.

Steve Reichlyn, AA4V, with three fellow ops currently stands in second place for Asia as a Multi-Two team operating from Israel. The final scoring could move that team into first place. Mauro (IN3QBR) and Brix (IN3ZNR) did well operating from Sardinia once again.

Everyone who operates in either contest should submit their log to CQ to contribute to our club score. CQ will send you an email confirming receipt of your log. If you don't get the email, you should resubmit. Full details for submission can be found on Page 26 of September 2007 CQ or at:

<http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/CQWWDXContestRules8407.pdf>

Deadlines are December 1 for SSB and January 15 for CW. Use "Carolina DX Assn" as your club affiliation when reporting.

Be sure to provide a detailed summary sheet to Dick Williams (W3OA) at [w3oa@roadrunner.com](mailto:w3oa@roadrunner.com) by December 2 for your CWAC entry so Dick can have prizes ready by the Holiday Party. If you made over 1000 QSOs, make sure you let Dick know your prize preference.

Clip Here

## Carolina DX Association

### Proxy for Annual Meeting/Election of Officers To be held on December 13, 2007

I, \_\_\_\_\_ do hereby appoint Cliff Wagoner (W3ZL),

current CDXA Secretary/Treasurer or, in his absence, Ted Goldthorpe (W4VHF), current CDXA President, as my proxy to vote my choice for CDXA 2008 officers. If I decide to attend the meeting in person, I reserve the right to withdraw this proxy and vote my choices in person.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

President .....	_____ Ted Goldthorpe	_____ Write-In
Vice-President .....	_____	_____ Write-In
Secretary-Treasurer .....	_____ Cliff Wagoner	_____ Write-In
Newsletter Editor .....	_____ John Scott	_____ Write-In
Cluster Manager .....	_____ Joe Simpkins	_____ Write-In
Cluster Manager-North ...	_____ Paul Sturpe	_____ Write-In
Contest Manager .....	_____ Dick Williams	_____ Write-In
Webmaster .....	_____ Wayne Setzer	_____ Write-In

Send to: Cliff Wagoner; P.O. Box 577; Davidson, NC 28036



## The Back Page

The **CDXA Holiday Party/Annual Meeting** will be held on Thursday, December 13, 2007. Details can be found on Page 5. We are still looking for a candidate to serve as Vice President for 2008. Please contact Wilson Caselli, K4MIJ, if you'd like to serve or wish to nominate someone. Can't attend? A **proxy voting form** can be found on Page 7.

**Field Day 2007** results are available on the ARRL website. Operating from AA4S's QTH, CDXA claimed first place in the 4E category and did very well in many other categories. See Page 1.

The complete text of an ARRL report on the proceedings of a suit brought by **ARRL against the FCC on its handling of BPL regulatory matters** in the U. S. Court of Appeals is reproduced starting on Page 2.

**Six new members** join us in the last month! Welcome to all of them. See Page 4.

Three more CDXAers have stepped forward to claim **#1 DXCC Honor Roll** slots. See Page 5.

Our treasurer is still awaiting the arrival of **dues** payments. Have you sent yours in yet? See Page 5.

A recap of the **2007 Barbeque**, including photos, is on Page 6 for your viewing pleasure.

**CWAC is alive and well.** Read how we're doing on Page 7.

There is **no Pileup in December**—see you in January. Have a safe Holiday season.

### Upcoming Contests:

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Contest</u>
Nov 24-25	CQWW CW
Nov 30-Dec 2	ARRL 160m

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**Cliff Wagoner, W3ZL**

**P. O. Box 577**

**Davidson, NC 28036**

**cliffw@adelphia.net**

**First Class Mail**

*See something wrong with your address label? Notify W3ZL at once, please.*